NOSTALGIA

New colleges lead the way in education

Bassingbourn Village College was opened in 1954

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Books for partially-sighted – 1964

THE Isle of Ely county library already pays the postage cost for 'talking books' for registered blind people. Now it is adding specially printed books with large clear type.

They will be kept together as a collection and taken round by travelling libraries to enable readers with imperfect vision to read books which they cannot currently enjoy.

The cost is no greater than for ordinary editions and the books are equally suitable for people with normal sight.

We will melt the polar cap – 1959

DETAILS of one of the most fantastic development schemes ever devised by the human mind are now being worked out by Russian engineers who want to heat the Arctic.

The scheme proposes nothing short of the melting of the ice and snow of the earth's northern polar cap and converting the now frozen wastes of Siberia into temperate, productive and immeasurably valuable countryside.

The basis of the plan is the proposal to construct a gigantic dam across the Bering Strait. Inside the dam, the Russians proposed to have a series of huge nuclear power generating stations. The sea would provide a convenient dumping place for slightly radioactive waste.

The generators would provide the power for heavy-duty water pumps which would suck water from the warmer Pacific Ocean on the southern side of the dam and transfer it into the Arctic Ocean on the northern side.

Very gradually the temperature would rise and billions of tons of ice would start to melt away. In time, the scheme could rejuvenate the entire Arctic area opening up millions of square miles which is now a total loss to productivity in a food-hungry world.

The Arctic Ocean would be opened up for fishing and it would be possible to build new ports which would be open all the year round, encouraging settlement.

But warming the Arctic would bring about a major change in the weather of the whole northern hemisphere. The English climate could become subtropical.

Most important would be the probable rise in the level of the world's oceans and residents would have to be evacuated from low-lying places. But the immense economic advantages may outweigh all the objections.

Rab Butler opens village college – 1954

THE ultra-modern Bassingbourn Village College, which will be the focal point of cultural and social life for 11 Cambridgeshire villages, was officially opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr R A Butler.

It is the first village college to be opened since the war; seven more are planned and sites already acquired at Swavesey and Soham.

It would help to stop the drift away from agricultural to industrial areas which might seriously upset the economic balance of the country.

Villagers gathered to watch the arrivals and a detachment of police were on duty to deal with about 250 cars which choked the entrance to the school and overflowed on to the approach road.

Did Nazis parachute into county? – 1941

RUMOURS that another Nazi official of high standing had landed in England by aircraft were denied in official circles in London.

It was suggested that this 'important' personage had dropped by parachute and been found in Cambridgeshire.

The rumours probably arose from the fact that, at about daybreak yesterday, one of our bombers returning from Germany found itself in difficulties and two members of the crew bailed out. The aircraft, however, was able to get back to base safely.

No German machine was over this part of the country when the incident was said to have occurred.

As a result of the rumour, Home Guard was called out in Cambridge and district last night.

The bells of Over – 1931

TWO new church bells were dedicated at Over to complete the octave.

One is a thank-offering from F G Weston, vicar, while the other is in memory of Horace Bernard Woolley, vicar of Longstanton from 1905 to 1929.

It was given by Ingle Robinson, younger son of the clerk of the church from 1839 to 1883 and the united efforts of Over ringers.

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- Read Mike Petty's Cambridgeshire Scrapbook to search for other stories.
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- Take a trip down Memory Lane to search for, share and colourise photos.
- Subscribe to Mike Petty's YouTube channel to listen to some of this talks.

18+ £10 Min Fund, 1 use only, T&Cs and 65x Wagering Requirements apply, £8 max win per 10 spins, max bonus conversion equal to lifetime deposits (up to £250), The Mega Wheel advertised will be added to your account on your first £10 fund or more made using promo code SCREAM.